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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum

THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
3 August 1966

ARMY review(s) completed.

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
CONTAINED HEREIN IS **NOT** AUTHORIZED

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3 August 1966

HIGHLIGHTS

Political activity in Saigon remains centered on the issue of elections. Military contact with the Viet Cong was heaviest in Operation PAUL REVERE in the Pleiku-Kontum area of the highlands.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Scattered, heavy contact with enemy forces continues to be reported as allied forces participating in Operation PAUL REVERE are strengthened to include more than seven battalions (Paras. 1-2). Operation BUCKS began in Quang Nam Province in an area where 600 Viet Cong are reported operating (Para. 3). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
Ky will reportedly visit the Philippines on 10 August (Para. 1).

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General Thi, in the United States only three days, has informed newsmen that he intends to run for South Vietnam's premiership (Para. 3).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: Kosygin gives standard line on Vietnam in speech to Supreme Soviet (Paras. 1-2).

VI. Other Major Aspects: Bertrand Russell
says he plans to conduct mock trials of US leaders
in Paris next November (Para. 1)

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ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 24 - 30 July

Total Personnel Losses

Cumulative US Combat Casualties

Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

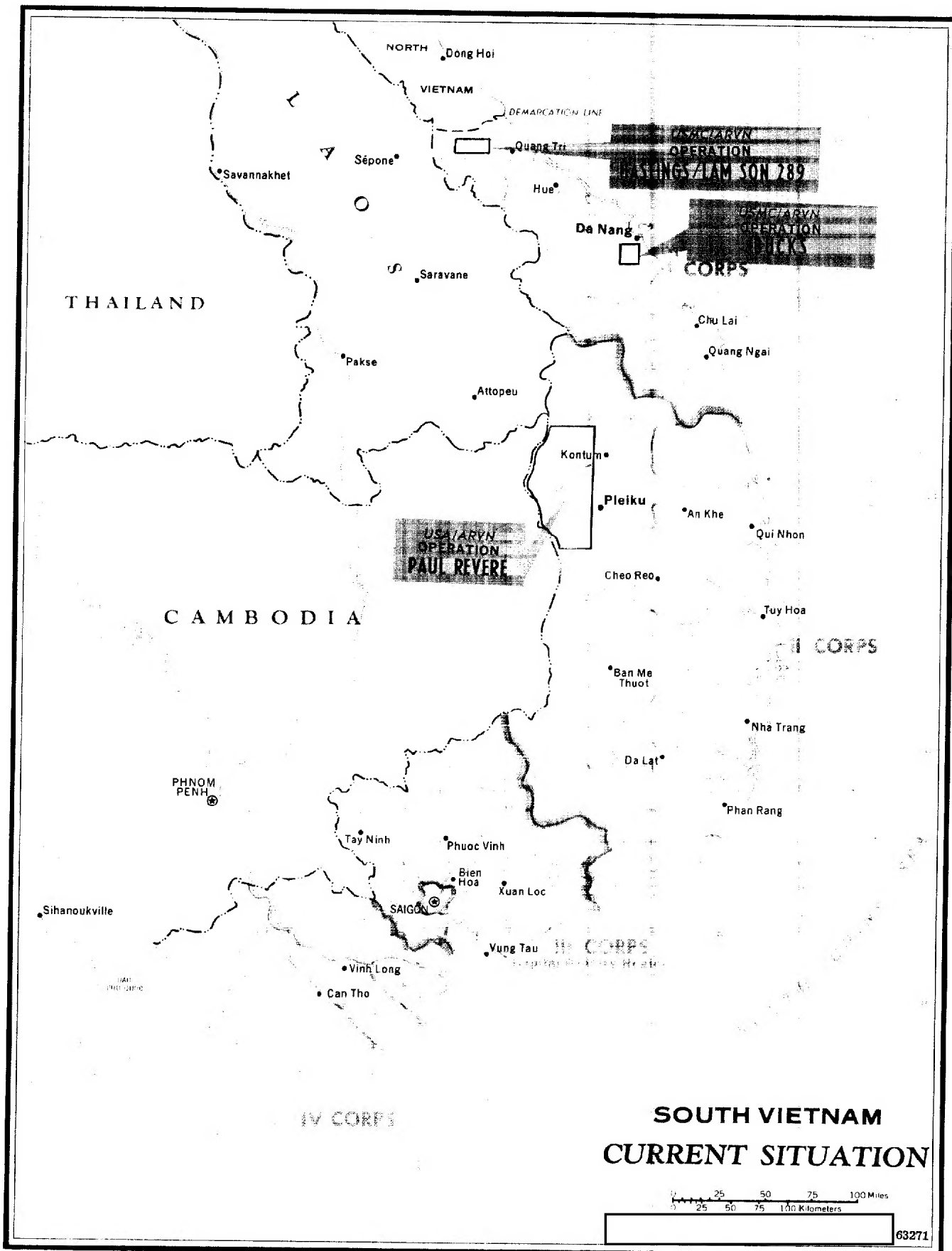
South Vietnam Battle Statistics 24 - 30 July

Viet Cong Incidents

Viet Cong Attacks

Weapons Losses--GVN/VC

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Scattered, heavy contact has been reported in Operation PAUL REVERE which has expanded to a total force of three US 25th Infantry Division battalions, three US 1st Cavalry Division battalions, one South Korean battalion, and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces. Another brigade of three US infantry battalions has been alerted for employment in this operation and is presently positioned at Pleiku.

2. One company of the 25th Infantry Division engaged an enemy force of unknown size on the morning of 3 August, resulting in no American casualties and 11 enemy killed. A total of 110 Communist troops have been reported killed since this renewed fighting in Pleiku Province began on 1 August.

3. One US Marine battalion, joined by one South Vietnamese company, began a five-day search-and-destroy operation five miles southeast of Da Nang yesterday. This operation--Operation BUCKS--is sweeping an area in which the 507th Viet Cong Battalion with a strength of 300 and two unidentified Viet Cong companies of 150 men each are operating.

Status of Major Lines of Communications

4. The operational status of South Vietnam's major highways remained the same during the week of 24-30 July. There were no changes in the status of the railway system. (See map on reverse.)

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

5. The week of 24-30 July compared with the week of 16-23 July:

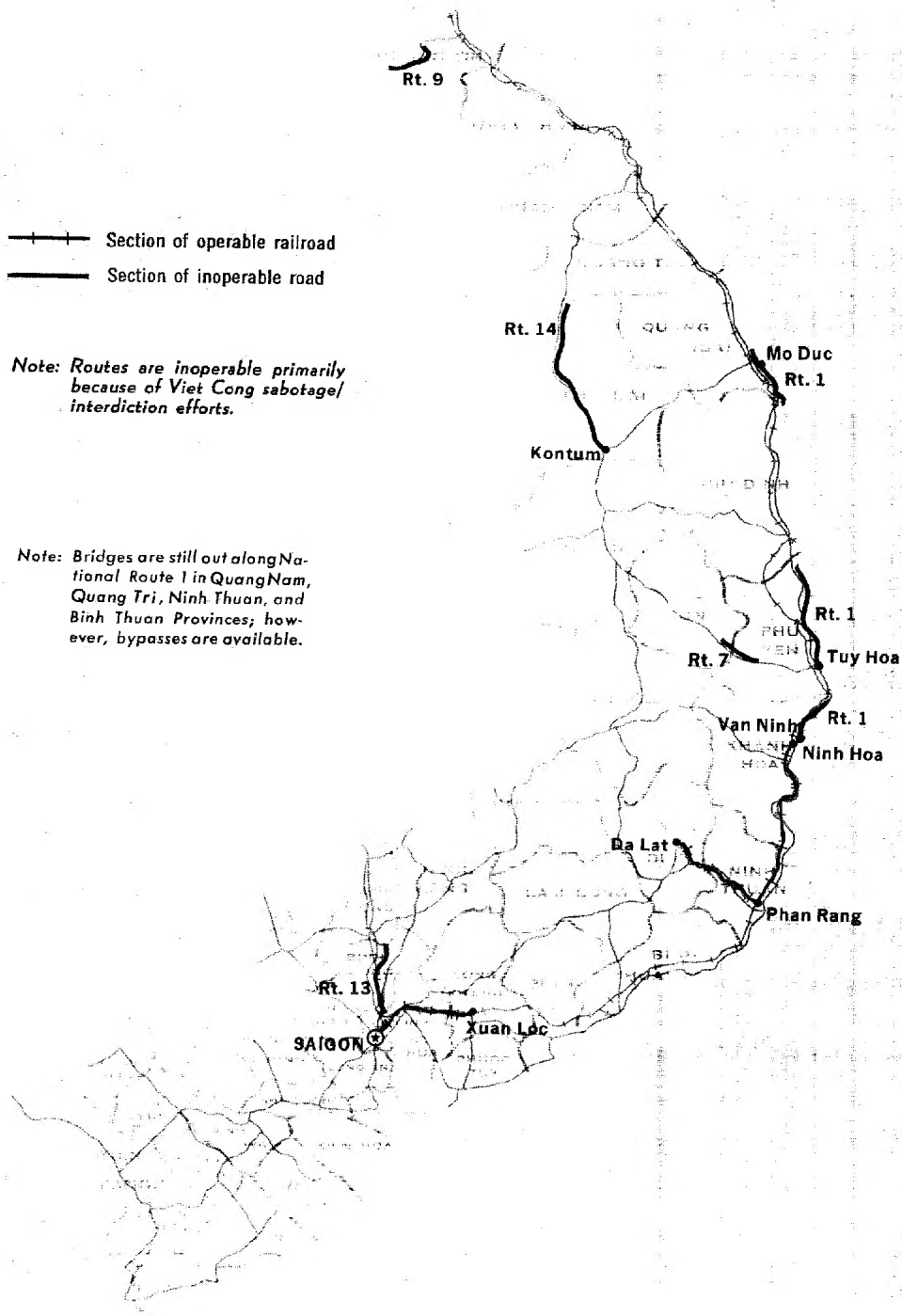
I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harass-ment</u>	<u>Ter-rorism</u>
16-23 July	24	0	0	1	462	19
24-30 July	20	0	0	2	487	20

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CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND COASTAL RAILROAD



Information as of 30 July 1966

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I. Viet Cong Incidents (Continued)

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo- tage</u>	<u>Propa- ganda</u>	<u>Anti- Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
16-23 July	35	11	91	642
24-30 July	34	13	102	676

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/PAVN</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>
Killed	1,272	1,153	195	200
Wounded	-----	-----	361	426
Missing/ Captured	<u>120</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>
TOTALS	1,392	1,242	598	657

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>
Killed	136	99	3	12
Wounded	578	531	7	16
Missing/ Captured	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	716	650	10	28

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/PAVN</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>	<u>16-23 July</u>	<u>24-30 July</u>
Individual	369	Not	151	186
Crew-served	<u>26</u>	Reported	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	395		151	189

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Prime Minister Ky's office announced today that Ky will depart on 10 August for the Philippines to thank President Marcos personally for supporting the GVN military effort. On 2 August, a spokesman from the prime minister's office also issued a confirmation of Ky's intentions to "retire" from politics and return to full-time military duty after an elected government is established in accordance with the forthcoming constitution. The date of Ky's expected retirement has been estimated to be sometime in the fall of 1967, or, in the words of Ky, "three to six months" after the constitution is promulgated. The constitution is expected to be finished in early 1967.

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3. General Nguyen Chanh Thi, speaking to newsmen on 3 August at Lynchburg, Virginia, where two of his children have been staying, said he will be a candidate for "premier" of South Vietnam when elections are held under the new constitution. Thi also stated that he expected to limit his visit to the United States to about three months.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Soviet Premier Kosygin's 3 August speech before the Supreme Soviet contained nothing new on questions of foreign affairs and essentially reaffirmed the policies followed by Moscow for the past year. In direct reference to Vietnam, Kosygin repeated a standard pledge of the USSR to do "everything in its power to help the Vietnamese people expel as quickly as possible the American occupationists from Vietnamese soil." He also revealed once again Soviet frustration over the existing predicament in Vietnam when he said the US is to blame for the present state of Soviet-American relations, adding that the "current moment" is "not favorable for taking concrete measures toward disarmament." However, he went on to say that even now partial measures can be carried out such as the "conclusion of a treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons."

2. The Soviet leader also reiterated party chief Brezhnev's remarks, during the 23rd CPSU Congress, that "unfortunately" all Soviet attempts to improve relations with China "remain without result." He added that Chinese attacks against the USSR are "rendering a big service to the American imperialists." Consistent with Moscow's tactic of "reasonableness" in the Sino-Soviet wrangling, he claimed for the record that the Soviet people still desire a restoration of friendly relations and unity with the Chinese.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. According to a Reuters press report from London, Bertrand Russell plans to stage his well-publicized mock trial of US policy makers for "war crimes" in Vietnam next November in Paris. The North Vietnamese have enthusiastically encouraged Russell to conduct this kind of a propaganda show, and according to the Reuters dispatch, Hanoi will fly some 200 North Vietnamese who have been hurt in US bombing raids to Paris to "testify." Last month the DRV set up a special government committee to investigate "US war crimes" in North Vietnam and this committee is probably already engaged in preparing "evidence" for presentation at the Russell trials. The Reuters dispatch reported that the some 12-15 European and Latin American leftist personalities representing legal, religious, and academic circles will be asked to sit on the tribunal.

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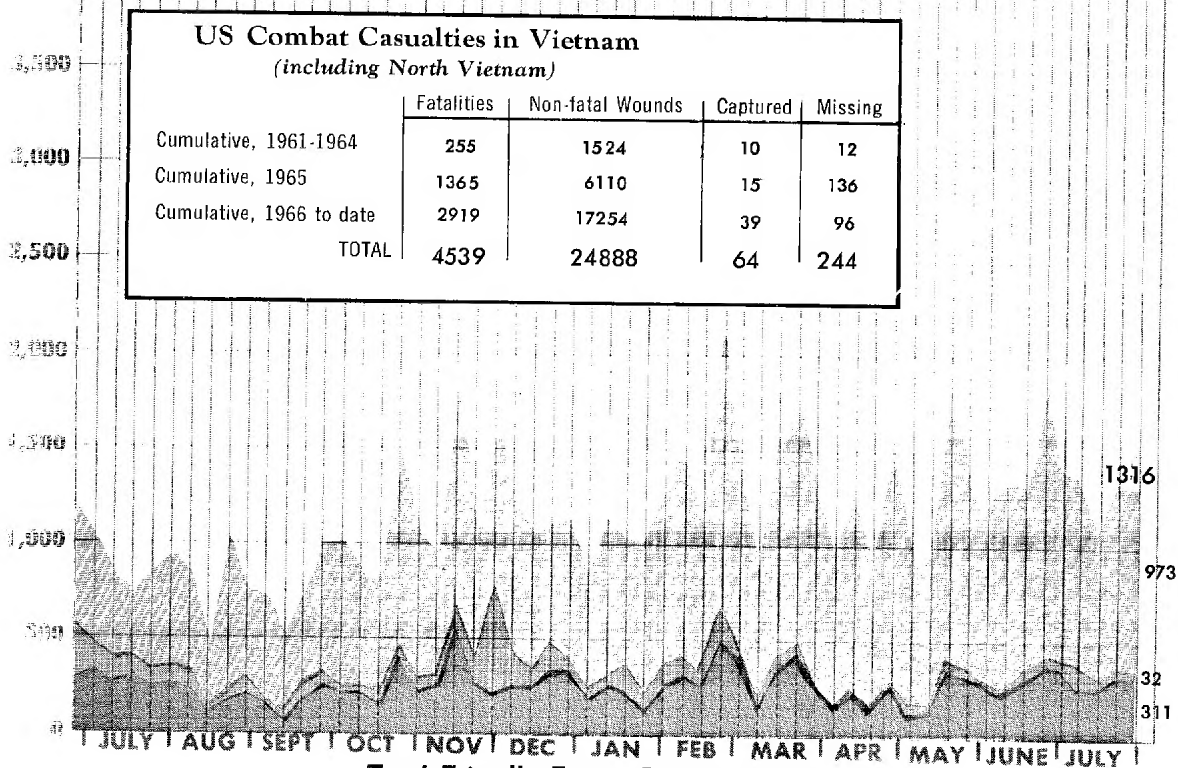
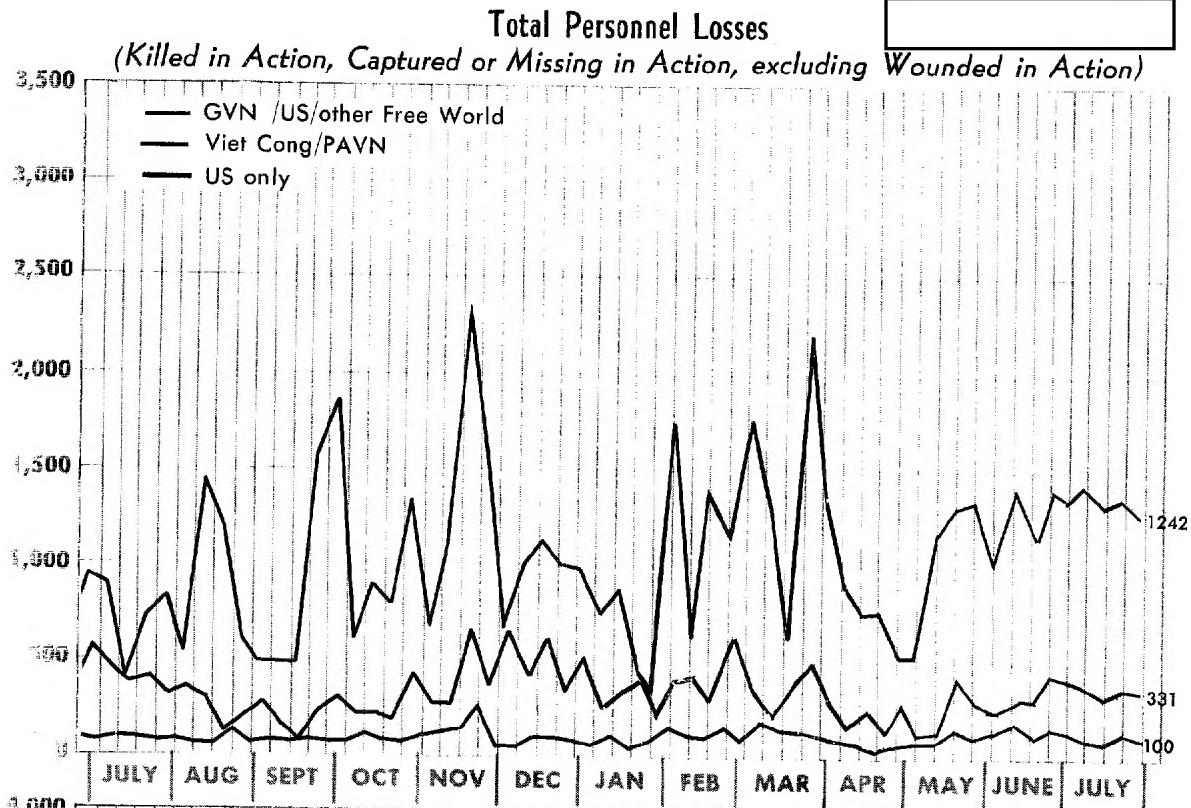
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SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

WEEKLY REPORT 24-30 JULY 1966

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Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses (US/GVN/Other Free World)

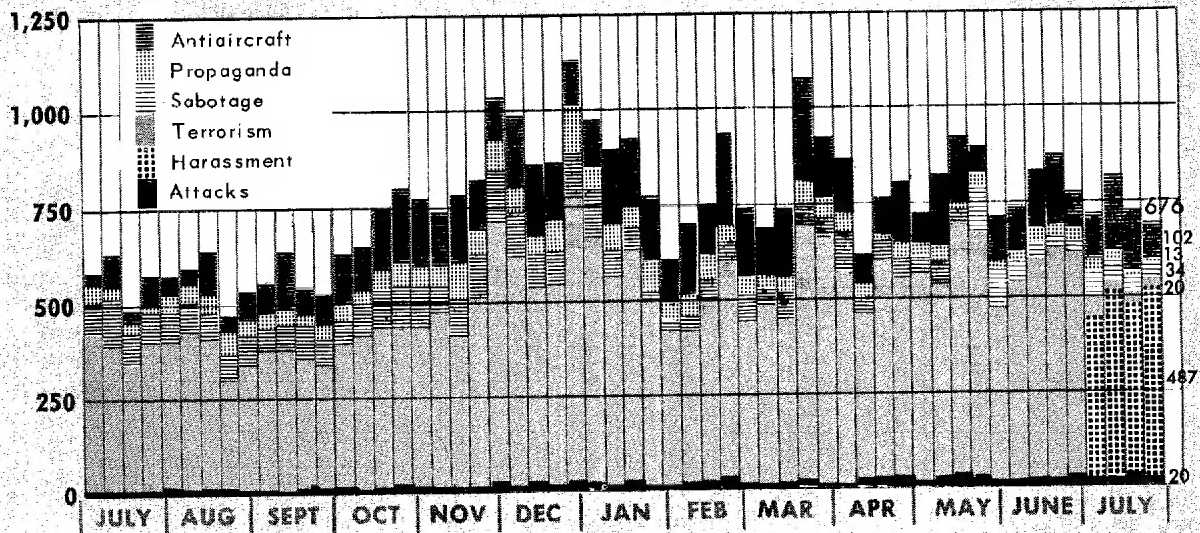
63241 Killed in action Missing or Captured in action Wounded in action

SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

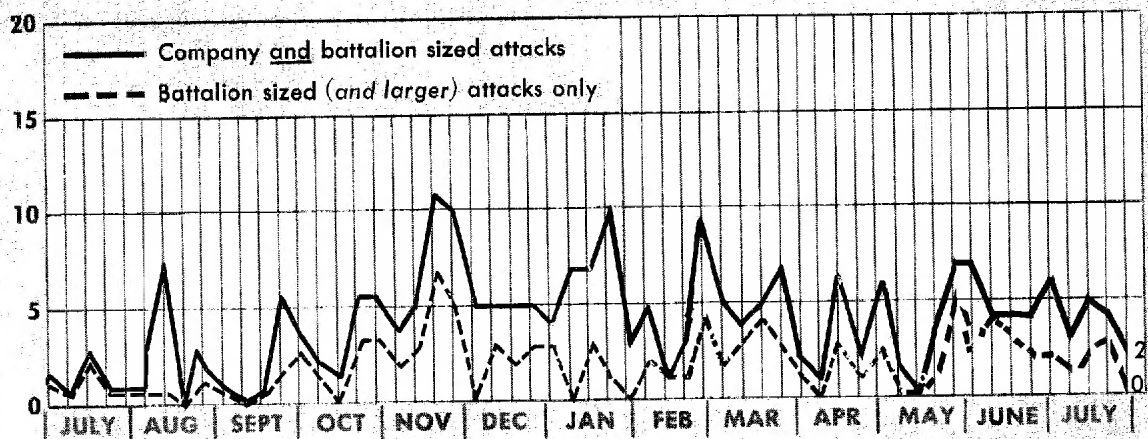
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WEEKLY REPORT 24-30 JULY 1966

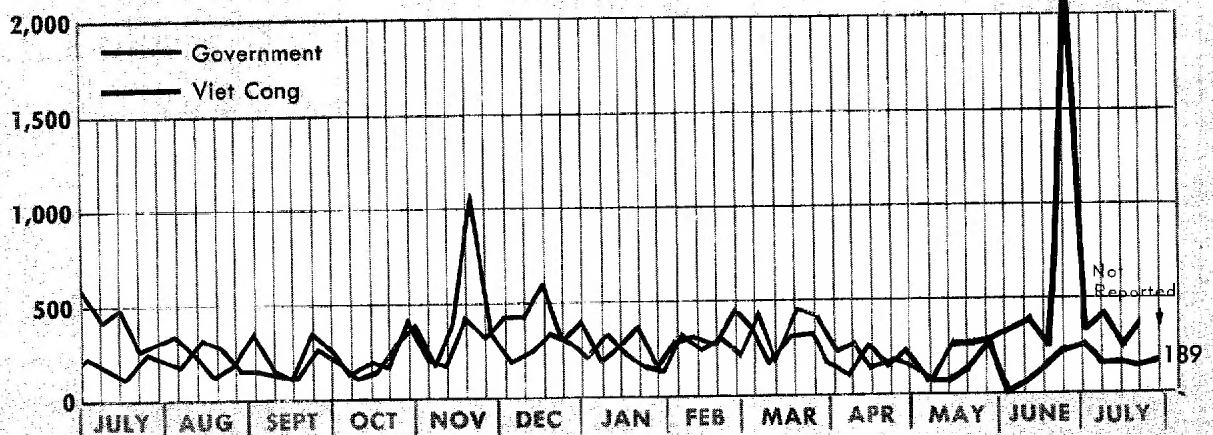
Viet Cong Incidents



Viet Cong Attacks



Weapons Losses



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